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### INDIA: Nuclear Safeguards Irregularity

[REDACTED] the Indians have shipped heavy water supplied by the Soviets for the Rajasthan nuclear power reactor, which is under IAEA safeguards, to the unsafeguarded power reactor at Madras. IAEA officials discovered during a recent inspection that Rajasthan's heavy-water inventory was 12 tons short.

[REDACTED] Indian officials are trying to come up with a credible explanation for the discrepancy before the next inspection. IAEA rules allow the transfer of safeguarded heavy water to an unsafeguarded facility, if it is replaced by an equal amount of locally produced heavy water. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** The Indians probably were unable to make up for the shipment to Madras before the IAEA inspection because domestic production of heavy water has been lagging badly. The USSR is India's only confirmed source of imported heavy water. Although it is likely to accept India's explanation to avoid damaging close relations with New Delhi, Moscow will insist on strict adherence to IAEA rules. Indian nuclear officials probably will be more cautious in the future about using safeguarded heavy water to make up for shortages elsewhere. [REDACTED]

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